

# CLAIMS

1. A mounting apparatus for mounting an endless cord (2) which is expandable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition onto an end (1) of a structure having a transverse dimension greater than that of the cord when in the contracted condition, said apparatus comprising a tapered adaptor (14; 114) for the cord to be propelled over onto the end of the structure having a forward smaller end (16; 116) for location in the cord in its contracted condition and a rear larger end (18; 118) for juxtaposing with the end of the structure, said apparatus further comprising an expander device (24; 124; 224) movable relative to the adaptor to propel the cord over the adaptor onto the rear larger end thereof, wherein the adaptor (14) comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced-apart fingers (22) which extend from the rear larger end (18) towards the forward smaller end (16) and the expander device (24) comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced-apart arms (26) insertable between the fingers of the adaptor, characterised in that the arms (26) of the expander device are tapering, i.e. have a decreasing extension, in a radial direction towards the centre.
2. A mounting apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the expander device (24) is operable in a first mode thereof to propel the cord (2) over the adaptor (14) on to the rear larger end (18) thereof and in a second mode thereof to propel the cord from the rear larger end onto the end (1) of the structure.
3. A mounting apparatus for mounting an endless cord (2) which is expandable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition onto an end (1) of a structure having a transverse dimension greater than that of the cord when in the contracted condition, said apparatus comprising a tapered adaptor (14; 114) for the cord to be propelled over onto the end of the structure having a forward smaller end (16; 116) for location in the cord in its contracted condition and a rear larger end (18; 118) for juxtaposing with the end of the structure, said apparatus further comprising an expander device (24; 124; 224) movable relative to the adaptor to propel the cord over the adaptor onto the rear larger end thereof, wherein the adaptor (14) comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced-apart fingers (22) which extend from the rear larger end (18) towards the forward smaller end (16) and the expander device (24) comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced-apart arms (26) insertable between the fingers of the adaptor, characterised in that the expander device (24) is operable in a first mode

thereof to propel the cord (2) over the adaptor (14) on to the rear larger end (18) thereof and in a second mode thereof to propel the cord from the rear larger end onto the end (1) of the structure.

4. A mounting apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the arms (26) of the expander device are tapering, i.e. have a decreasing extension, in a radial direction towards the centre.

5. A mounting apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the adaptor (14) and the expander device (24) are adapted to mesh with one another to propel the cord (2) over the adaptor to the rear larger end (18) thereof.

6. A mounting apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein circumferentially spaced-apart fingers (22) of the adaptor are tapering, i.e. have a decreasing extension, in a radial direction towards the centre.

7. A mounting apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the forward smaller end of the adaptor (14) is presented by a central member (16).

8. A mounting apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the central member (16) and the fingers (22) of the adaptor (14) are connected to one another.

9. A mounting apparatus as claimed in claim 2 or 3 or any one of claims 4 to 8 when appendant on claim 2 or 3, wherein the expander device (24) includes a tubular section (28) adapted to slide over the adaptor (14) to propel the cord (2) from the rear larger end (18) thereof onto the end (1) of the structure.

10. A mounting apparatus for mounting an endless cord (2) which is expandable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition onto an end (1) of a structure having a transverse dimension greater than that of the cord when in the contracted condition, said apparatus comprising a tapered adaptor (14; 114) for the cord to be propelled over onto the end of the structure having a forward smaller end (16; 116) for location in the cord in its contracted condition and a rear larger end (18; 118) for juxtaposing with the end of the structure, said apparatus further comprising an expander device (24; 124; 224) movable relative to the adaptor to propel the cord over the adaptor onto the rear larger end thereof, characterised in that the expander device is in the form of a hook device (124; 224) which comprises two opposed hooks (136; 236) dimensioned to engage the cord (2) when in its contracted condition, the hook device

being adapted for the hooks to engage with the cord when in its contracted condition and to be displaced away from one another when the hook device is moved relative to the adaptor (114) to propel the cord over the adaptor to the rear larger end (118) thereof.

5 11. A mounting apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the hooks (136; 236) are located at the end of opposed arms (132; 232) made of a resilient material.

12. A mounting apparatus as claimed in claim 10 or 11, wherein the hook device (224) includes a crease (238) for enabling the hooks (236) to be brought close together for engagement with the cord (2) when in its contracted condition.

10 13. A mounting apparatus as claimed in claim 10, 11 or 12, wherein the adaptor (114) is provided with guide tracks for guiding the hooks (136; 236) when the hook device (124; 224) is moved relative to the adaptor to propel the cord (2) over the adaptor.

14. A mounting apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims for mounting an elastic cord (2) onto an end of a surgical instrument for ligating internal body tissue.

15. A surgical kit comprising a mounting apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14.

15 16. A surgical kit as claimed in claim 15 including a surgical instrument for ligating internal body tissue.

20 17. A method of mounting an endless cord (2) which is expandable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition onto an end (1) of a structure having a transverse dimension greater than that of the cord in its contracted condition comprising the steps of providing a tapered adapter (14; 114) having a forward smaller end (16; 116) and a rear larger end (18; 118), propelling the cord over the tapered adaptor onto the rear larger end thereof by displacement of an expander- device (24; 124; 224) relative to the adaptor and, when the rear larger end of the tapered adaptor is juxtaposed to the end of the structure, propelling the cord from the rear larger end of the adaptor onto the end of the structure.

25 18. A method as claimed in claim 17, characterised by displacing the expander device (124; 224) relative to the adaptor (114) to move the cord (2) over the adaptor onto the end (1) of the structure.

19. A method as claimed in claim 18, characterised by the provision of an expander device in the form of a hook device (124; 224) comprising two hooks (136; 236) dimensioned to engage with the cord (2) when in its contracted condition, engaging the hooks with the cord when the cord is in its contracted condition, displacing the hook device relative to the adaptor (114) so as to  
5 propel the cord over the adaptor onto the end (1) of the structure and disengaging the hooks from the cord.

20. A mounting apparatus for mounting an endless cord (2) which is expandable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition onto an end (1) of a structure having a transverse dimension greater than that of the cord when in the contracted condition substantially as herein  
10 described with reference to and illustrated by Figures 1 to 18 or Figures 1 to 4 and 19 to 23 of the accompanying drawings.

21. A method of mounting an endless cord (2) which is expandable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition onto an end (1) of a structure having a transverse dimension greater than that of the cord in its contracted condition substantially as herein described with reference to  
15 and illustrated by Figures 1 to 18 or Figures 1 to 4 and 19 to 23 of the accompanying drawings.